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# GOLD FIELDS.

## REPORT.

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(COPY.)

*Chief Gold Commissioner's Office,*
*Halifax, July* 28, 1863.

SIR,—I have the honor to submit the following semi-annual report for the information of his Excellency the Lieutenant-Governor. It contains a short account of the gold mining operations in Novascotia for the half year ending on the 30th June last.

DISCOVERIES.

As gold mining in the Province is every day assuming a more settled and permanent form, the report of a discovery of gold in a certain district does not occasion such a wide spread excitement as formerly. The consequence is, that upon the opening of a new district, capitalists have a much better opportunity of securing a greater scope of ground for their operations than is possible when a large number of applicants for leases are attracted by the report of a recent discovery. This has plainly been the result at Montagu.

A report of the discovery of gold in this place was made here on the 21st day of April, and although 203 areas of class No. one have been leased, 150 of these, or about the three-fourths of the whole, have been taken by four companies.

In this district about one hundred men have been employed during the past month. Two crushing machines are in course of erection in it; and the parties engaged in mining generally, speak with the highest confidence of success in their undertaking. Thirty-eight and three-quarter tons of the quartz mined have been crushed at some of the mills at Waverley, and have yielded 116·85 oz. of gold, being an average of three ounces to the ton; and the New York and Novascotia company have procured from specimens, and by hand mortaring, one thousand dollars worth.

The richest vein in the district as yet discovered is about three inches in thickness, but there are numerous leads varying in size from that to a foot, which have proved auriferous, and the district is now undergoing a thorough prospecting.

Over half a mile of road has been made in the district at the government expense, costing $206, and a further expenditure is required.

OTHER DISTRICTS.

Without making any particular reference to the result of mining operations in the several districts which were proclaimed last year, I beg to refer for information in respect to them to the tables herewith enclosed.

Table No. 1 shows the quantity of quartz crushed, and the yield of gold therefrom, in the several districts therein named. The average yield per ton being a trifle over an ounce, which is below the average of last year; but it must be borne in mind, that in quartz reported as crushed at Sherbrooke and Wine Harbour, a large quantity of gravel or rubbish is included, the exact amount of which I am not able at present to ascertain. There is, therefore, no reason to conclude that the average yield of gold per ton of quartz is much, if any, below that of 1862.

By table No. 2, it appears that the yield of gold per man employed in the mines, is 8·38 oz. for the six months, which shews a higher average of 2·78 oz. for a year than the calculation was for 1862. (See page 29, Gold Commissioner's Report, 1862.)

No. 3 refers to Waverley, by which it appears that the barrel quartz crushed in that district has not yielded equal to that in 1862. The yield from the West division is also a trifle below that of last year.

Table No. 4 shews the total yield of gold in all the districts as reported, to be 5,193 ounces.

When it is taken into consideration that a large proportion of the labor expended during the past six months is preparatory to the operations of the latter half of the year, it may be said that the results of the half year's operations have been successful. And I may safely add, the prospects at present indicate a much larger return of gold for that part of the year to come than has been obtained in that just terminated.

I have, Sir. the honor to be,
Your most obedient servant,
SAMUEL CREELMAN.

The Hon. Provincial Secretary.

[For tables referred to above, see Appendix A (1, 2, 3, 4,) to Commissioner's Annual Report for 1863.]